

SETTING UP THE MERSEYSIDE BROOK GUM CLINIC. APPENDIX A

Setting

The Merseyside Brook Centre is situated on the edge of the central shopping district of Liverpool, 5 minutes' walk from the main GUM clinic, which is based in the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. In the 2003/4 fiscal year, 14 248 clients made over 26 000 visits [5]; of whom 2 537 (18%) were men, compared to 28 452 clients attended the hospital GUM clinic, of whom 48.7% were male and 12 814 (45%) were aged less than 25.

Setting up the clinic

In late 2003, a family planning trained GUM nurse practitioner (H grade) was appointed to work with the lead nurse from the Brook Centre and with both management teams, to set up a GUM service in the Centre following national guidelines.[12] Two senior family planning nurses received extra training in the GUM clinic and attended local Sexually Transmitted Infection Foundation (STIF) courses[15] before appointment as nurse practitioners. A Level 2 containment laboratory was established in the Centre.[16] Laboratory and clinical protocols and record sheets, including patient group directions,[17] were adapted from existing GUM and Brook documentation. All staff received training in appropriate health and safety and child protection issues.[18]

STI screening

Two clinics a week were established with about 14 client visits per clinic, running alongside, but independent of, the family planning clinics.

STI screening includes:

- microscopy for bacterial vaginosis, candidiasis, trichomoniasis, non specific urethritis and gonorrhoea
- cultures for gonorrhoea and trichomoniasis
- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for chlamydia
- PCR test for herpes if indicated
- transcription mediated assay (TMA) test on urine for gonorrhoea and chlamydia available on request
- serological tests for HIV and syphilis offered
- serological tests for hepatitis B and C if indicated

Uncomplicated STI's treated at Brook include gonorrhoea, chlamydia, trichomoniasis, herpes, warts and non specific urethritis. Contraception can be issued at this visit.

There are concurrent family planning clinics for more complex requirements. A GUM-based consultant physician provides medical supervision and is available for immediate consultation by telephone. All clients with positive serology for syphilis, HIV, hepatitis, clinical signs of pelvic inflammatory disease, epididymitis or secondary infected herpes will be triaged into the hospital based GUM clinic. The Brook GUM clinic requires 0.5 whole-time equivalents (WTE) of H grade nursing time, 0.22 WTE of G grade nursing time, 0.3 WTE of biomedical scientist time, 0.22 WTE health care assistants, 0.22 WTE receptionist time and 0.01 WTE (0.1 pa) of supporting physician time. All staff are female.

Clinical governance and client satisfaction

The GUM consultant physician performs regular routine case note audit during group clinical supervision.[12] Random case notes are checked by the consultant as well as notes/cases the nurses wish to discuss. The outcomes of clinical care discussed at these reviews were not specifically recorded for this paper.

A client satisfaction questionnaire was carried out 8 months after the GUM clinic opened. This consisted of a single sheet of paper with 8 closed questions and 3 open-ended questions, given to all clients attending in a 3-week period. Clients filled in the questionnaire anonymously while waiting for their laboratory results, and were invited to leave the completed questionnaire in a box at reception when leaving clinic.

Data collection and analysis

Diagnoses are recorded using standardised national KC60 codes.[19] Identified contacts are recorded in client notes and contact slips are issued in line with national and local GUM clinic practice.[20] The proportion of contacts that subsequently attend is routinely monitored.